

Innovative Outstanding Weatherization Assistance News

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Statistics	1
Agency Spotlight	2 3
Reminders	2
Mold	3
Program Monitoring Schedule	3
Tips	4
Extreme Photos	4
Program Monitoring	5
Service Recognitions	5
Questions & Answers	6
Fiscal Monitoring Schedule	6
Upcoming Events	7
Speed Bumps	8

Wishing you a bright spring!

From all of us in the
Weatherization Bureau
in Des Moines

Jim, Gwen, Mark, Chris, Mike
and Rosemary

Welcome

- The DCAA and your colleagues want to thank you for providing updated forms for the Weatherization Members Only web-site.
- If your agency has purchased the InSight infrared camera without temperature measurement capabilities, be sure to contact Energy Conservatory about upgrading your camera. To obtain the upgrade for temperature measurement capabilities, the camera would have to be shipped to Infrared Solutions for the conversion and calibration. For more information, please visit Energy Conservatory at www.energyconservatory.com and click on Products.
- Just a reminder that reimbursement for tuition and travel expenses to trainings during PY'04 need to be submitted to the DCAA by April 18th.
- Many of you have asked for an updated Training Schedule from the Bureau of Weatherization. The PY'05 training schedule has been posted on www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WxPage.html under Current Events and Trainings.
- Did you know the average number of weeks homes are open (only those files reviewed during Program Monitoring) is 17 weeks? And the average spent per home (only those files reviewed during Program Monitoring) is \$5,732.17.
- Community Action Agency of Southeast Iowa hosted the March 11 meeting of the Commission on Community Action Agencies. Southeast Iowa gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation about the agency to the Commission and DCAA staff. This was a great opportunity for the commissioners to learn more about the programs administered by Southeast Iowa.

Statistics

ITEM	*QTRLY	**YTD
Houses Worked On	593	2,006
Completions	525	1,724
Closed Incomplete	68	282
Owner Occupied	424	1,796
Rentals	69	210
Elderly Occupied	180	709
Disabled Occupied	249	865
Furnace Replacements	312	896
Refrigerator Replacements	248	724
Freezer Replacements	91	301
Average Costs Per House	\$5,852	\$5,858

Totals for all agencies combined
* QTRLY (December, January, February)
** YTD (Program year through February)

Agency Spotlight - Iowa East Central TRAIN

Iowa East Central TRAIN's Weatherization Department has recently partnered with the Iowa Quad Cities Rotary Group and the United States Naval Reserve Construction Battalion (Seabees) in a project which renovated a four-plex unit to house homeless and disabled veterans.

The facility was purchased through funding generated by local Rotary members. The Navy Seabees volunteered on weekends to complete roofing, drywalling, painting, carpeting, etc. TRAIN's Weatherization Department weatherized the four units to reduce the heating costs of the building and to improve safety.

Merril Anderson, of the Iowa Quad Cities Rotary Group, remarked, "TRAIN's assistance weatherizing the units has

made a big difference in the comfort level of the apartments as well as the costs to heat the units. The veterans living here have new hope for a better future."



Reminders

\$1 Million Insurance—Effective April 1, 2005 or when contractors renew their contracts with the agency, all weatherization and furnace contractors are required to carry \$1 million of insurance. Specifically, contractors are required to carry \$500,000 per occurrence and \$1 million in aggregate.

Water Heaters—Natural gas water heaters must have an efficiency rating of .62 to be eligible to be charged to utility funds. Electric water heaters must have an efficiency rating of .89.

Extended Warranties—Please remember that extended warranties, for furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, etc., are not a DOE allowable program expense. Therefore, agencies must cease purchasing extended warranties.

Non-Energy Star Side-by-Side Refrigerators—There are side-by-side refrigerators that have a high efficiency rating but not high enough to qualify as being Energy Star-rated. The cost of these models may be significantly less than the cost of the Energy Star models. Therefore, it may be more cost effective to use these models as replacements when a side-by-

side refrigerator needs to be installed.

Our policy has been changed to allow for the installation of a non-Energy Star side-by-side refrigerator if the model is "BART-approved", which means it is run through the BART program and the BART-calculated replacement rating is less than the rating of the existing appliance.

Note: If the cost of a replacement side-by-side refrigerator is going to be charged to a utility contract, the side-by-side must be Energy Star-rated, per utility company requirements.

Refrigerators with Ice Makers—Most side-by-side refrigerators come with an ice maker. Side-by-side models with ice makers may be installed, as long as the side-by-side model is "BART-approved". In these cases, the agency should *not* hook up the ice maker.

Rebates on Furnaces—Effective with the new contracts, if utility funds are used to pay the entire cost of the furnace replacement, rebates should not be requested.

Mold

Causes of Mold Growth Found

By: Mark Bergmeier, Technical Specialist

This last winter, a couple of homes had mold problems. Mold developed on the ceilings near the exterior walls, after Weatherization work was completed. During the investigation of the mold problem, two causes were found.

First, the existing baffles were improperly installed in the attic near the soffit vents, which restricted the insulation from the outside wall plate, creating a cold surface on the ceiling inside.

Second, the humidity level was higher than normal at 45-70%. This allowed the indoor humid air to travel to the coolest point (high to low pressure) near the ceiling next to the outside walls. When the warm humid air met the cooler surface, it met its dewpoint temperature, creating moisture that mold needs to survive.

To solve the problem, the baffles were properly positioned

and insulation was installed over the outside wall plate. The result of this corrective action was the outer edges of the ceiling were no longer cold and the indoor air was no longer condensing there. We also determined what was causing the high moisture levels and provided client education to the occupants about how to reduce the levels.

We cannot always control the indoor temperature and humidity level because of everyone's different lifestyle but, we as Evaluators, Crews, and Contractors, need to take a little extra time to look for missed areas of insulation.

Tentative 2005 PY Monitoring Schedule

April	MATURA Action Corporation
May	Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.
June	South Central Iowa Community Action Program

Agency Spotlight—City of Des Moines

Weatherization Coordinator Retiring

Barb Ashton is retiring from the City of Des Moines after 25 years of service.

In her retirement, Barb will keep busy exploring photography, gardening, traveling, and doing more mission trips. Most importantly, Barb will be enjoying time with Lee, the children and grandchildren, and visiting her Dad, and Ohio family. She will also be exploring all of the things she hasn't yet thought of exploring. As we know, Barb will be open to all possibilities.

Her staff, the state staff, and every one that has worked with her will miss Barb's wit, skill, and dedication.

Her last day will be celebrated with a reception from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. on May 20, 2005, in the ST. Etienne Conference Room, Armory Building, 602 Robert D Ray Drive, Des Moines where she will be accepting farewells; please join us.



Tips

Pilot Lights Lit? - Have you ever forgotten to double check the water heater and furnace to make sure the pilot light was lit before you left the house? *Try this:* Before you perform the pre combustion appliance safety inspection, place your car keys on top of the water heater. Continue with the evaluation. Before you leave, you will have to get your car keys; an opportune time to make sure the pilot lights are lit on the combustion appliances.

—Tip from Mark Bergmeier, Bureau of Weatherization

Trouble Reading the Appliance Line Logger? - Do you ever have trouble reading the line logger because it's behind the refrigerator or freezer? *Try this:* Instead of plugging the line logger directly into the outlet, first plug the extension cord into the outlet, plug the line logger into the extension cord and

then plug the appliance into the line logger. This will enable you to see the reading much easier.

—Tip from Eldon Starmer, MATURA Action Corporation

Paperwork Getting You Down? - Do you have trouble remembering everything that should be in your client files? What about those contractors files? Have you ever felt like you were forgetting something? *Try this:* Create a checklist of items that have to be in the file. Tape it to the inside cover of the folder. When you have put the item in the file, check the item or note the date. And, always put items in the same order in each file. Combining these two tips will enable you to quickly assess whether all items are in the file and you will know exactly where to look in the "stack".

—Tip from Christine Taylor, Bureau of Weatherization

Extreme Photos



So this is why we shouldn't vent bathroom exhaust fans into the attic...hmmmm.



This one's for the birds!!!



Program Monitoring

Program Monitoring

By: Christine Taylor, Program Specialist

Program Monitoring. Two words that often bring fear into the hearts of Weatherization staff. Words that make you wonder “Did I remember to put everything in the files?” and “Are we going to be written up?” First of all, you should know that we do not monitor with an “I gotcha” intention. It is our utmost desire to let you know the things your program is doing well and to assist you in making changes where needed. When we all work together for a common cause, our program and clients benefit.

“We are very happy with the improvements done to our home. The weatherization crew did a great job and our home now feels much warmer. The crew made a lot of improvements to our home that stopped air leaks that created a drafty home. Our home feels much cozier since the improvements were made. We have had other contractors who were supposed to weatherize our house but their efforts were pale in comparison to the weatherization crew. I would highly recommend this crew to anyone needing any home improvements. They went out of their way to make our home more energy efficient. The other contractors did the bare minimum they had to do, but the weatherization crew did a thorough job of weatherizing our home. We are very grateful to have such a great crew. In addition, Tom and Nancy were very helpful in providing us with the information about the program and communicating with us to the complete the job in a timely manner. Thanks again to all of the crew in weatherization. You guys make a big difference in peoples’ lives.”

- Community Action of Southeast Iowa Client

Service Recognition

New Staff

Welcome aboard to *Chad Jensen*, the new Executive Director for Community Opportunities, Inc. in Carroll, Iowa.

Welcome aboard to *Tom Wiebenga*, the new Weatherization Coordinator for Iowa East Central T.R.A.I.N. in Davenport, Iowa.

Retirements

March—*Lloyd DeMoss* currently serves as the Executive Director for Community Opportunities, Inc. in Carroll. He will be greatly missed.

April—*Joe Kolter* currently serves as the Evaluator for Hawkeye Area Community Action Program in Hiawatha and has been with the agency for 27 years. He will be greatly missed.

May—*Barb Ashton* currently serves as the Weatherization Coordinator for the City of Des Moines and has been with the agency for 25 years. She will be greatly missed.

Job Change

Mike Loos, Weatherization Coordinator for Iowa Central T.R.A.I.N. for over 5 years, has left to accept a position with the City of Davenport in Neighborhood Development and Code Enforcement. He will be greatly missed.

Many of you have asked exactly what it is I review during a monitoring visit. Perhaps the items below will help you when reviewing your own files. And, as always, should you have any questions, you are more than welcome to give me a call. Please note these items will be discussed in detail at the April 25th and 26th Administrative/WAMS training in Ames.

- **Contracts**—Ensure the weatherization and furnace contracts contain all required language. Consider adding all recommended language as well.
- **Contractors Files**—Ensure all required information such as a current signed contract, proof of insurance, copy of Lead Safe Work Practices certificate if applicable, and proof of Contractor’s Registration with Iowa are in the file.
- **House Files**—All required tests should be documented and all required paperwork should be in the files.
- **Crews**—Files should contain proof of trainings taken.
- **Have available for the visit:** Priority List, Contracts, Contractors Files, House Files, Crew Files, BART, and the NEAT Audit.

Questions and Answers—Continued

Question: What companies make short model water heaters that meet the .62 energy factor?

Answer: On the web we have found the following companies and models.

A.O. Smith	XGVL-40 short
American	FG62-40S40
Rheem/Ruud	none we could find
Bradford/White	M4403S6FBN-5
Reliance	none we could find

There may be others but the following are the largest water heater manufacturers: A.O. Smith produces Maytag, State, Reliance, and Kenmore/Sears. I am sure this will change as demand increases.

Question: Who makes direct vent mobile home water heaters that meet the .62 energy factor?

Answer: From our research we couldn't find any mobile home water heaters, direct vent or atmospheric that meet the .62 energy factor. Direct vent producers and models are as follows:

A.O. Smith	FMD30 (also 40 and 50 gallon)
American	none we could find
Rheem/Ruud	21VR3DV (short model 22V40SDVX-40 gal)
Bradford/White	MIMS30T6LX (also 40 gallon) (N for X if natural gas)
Reliance	MH630NHDST2 (also 40 gallon)

Question: Are there any power vent water heaters that meet the .62 energy factor?

Answer: It appears as if all the major companies manufacture power vented water heaters that comply with the .62 energy factor. If you need model numbers call use or check the following web sites.

www.aosmith.com

www.americanwaterheater.com

www.rheem.com

www.bradfordwhite.com

Tentative 2005 Fiscal Monitoring Schedule

April	Community Opportunities Community Action of Southeast Iowa
May	MATURA UDMO
June	Mid-Sioux Opportunity Community Action Agency of Siouxland

"I get a new refrigerator? I didn't know they did that! I am so grateful because mine just quit working. Thank you so much!"

- Community Action Agency of Siouxland Client

Upcoming Events

April 2005

- 5 **Lead Safe Work Practices** training. To be held at Community Opportunities, Inc. in Carroll, Iowa. To sign up for the training or for more information, please contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov.
- 12—13 **Basic Furnace/Duct Leakage** training. To be held in LaPorte, Iowa. To sign up for the training or for more information, please contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov.
- 21 **ICAA Meeting**. For more information, contact Tessy Pratt at THPratt@dmgov.org.
- 25—26 **Administrative/WAMS** training. To be held at Comfort Suites, 2609 Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010. To reserve a room, call 515-268-8808. To sign up for the training or for more information, please contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov.
- 27 **IWAC Meeting**. To be held from 9:00am-12:00noon at Comfort Suites, 2609 Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010. To reserve a room, call 515-268-8808. For meeting information, please contact Julie Colling at 712-786-3415 or jcolling@midsioux-opportunity.org.

May 2005

- 3—5 **Basic Evaluator** training. To be held at North Iowa Community Action Organization, 218-5th Street SW, Mason City, Iowa 50402. To sign up for the training or for more information, please contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov.
- 16—21 **Affordable Comfort Conference**. To be held at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott in Indianapolis, Indiana. For hotel reservations call toll free 1-877-640-7666 or visit www.marriott.com. For more information about the conference visit www.affordablecomfort.org starting February 1, 2005.
- 24—25 **Appliance Metering** training. To be held at Community Opportunities, Inc. in Carroll, Iowa. To sign up for the training or for more information, please contact Marcia Thompson at 515-281-3861 or Marcia.Thompson@iowa.gov.

June 2005

- 22 **IWAC Meeting**. To be held from 9:00am-12:00noon at Best Western Suites and Inn at 1450 NW 118th Street, Clive, Iowa. For hotel reservations call toll free 1-866-788-7013. Visit their website at <http://bestwesterniowa.com>. For meeting information, please contact Julie Colling at 712-786-3415 or jcolling@midsioux-opportunity.org.

Mark your calendars!

- September 25-28, 2005—DOE National Weatherization Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. Visit www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/conference/ for more information.
- October 4-5, 2005—ICAA Annual Training Conference in Des Moines, Iowa

Be sure to check our website for training updates at www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WxPage.html !

Speed Bumps

- Garage leakage testing is still a problem. Garage leakage testing is required and the results are to be entered in WAMS. We require garage leakage testing to be done because of the concern of carbon monoxide entering the home from a vehicle or other internal combustion engine source. There is a good article in Home Energy Magazine detailing some of the concerns we have with tuck under or attached garages. The article sights several studies that relate to our concern about the house/garage interface which is why we have put an emphasis on this zone in our standards. The article is in the March/April issue of Home Energy. This article also gives reasons why we should be doing dense pack insulation of tuck under garage ceilings and making sure that ducts that pass through these ceilings and garages should be tested and sealed.
 - Results from inspections this year are not as good as they have been. The statewide average corrective work is at 23.2%. This is the highest it has been since 1995-96 program year. The median is 22.6 so you can see how you stand as far as the other agencies for corrective work.
- The numbers do not include reinspections or file corrections.
- Water heater jackets are not to be installed on water heaters displaying the ASHRAE 90-1980 standard, manufactured after 1980, or having a warning against adding additional insulation. Water heaters located in a living area are also not to be insulated.
 - Spackling compound should not be used to seal holes on the exterior of the home. There may be a spackling made for exterior use but we need to see what other steps may need to be taken for its proper use in such an application.
 - Mobile home water heaters that are accessible from the interior of the home need to be a direct vent type. They do not get their combustion air or excess air for drafting from the interior of the home but from the outside. A duct passes through the underbelly of the home that brings in combustion air directly to the combustion chamber. The vent gases pass directly up through the water heater and out the vent pipe. There is no draft diverter on top of the water heater.

Please feel free to copy and distribute.

Iowa Bureau of Weatherization

Department of Human Rights
Community Action Agency
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor

We're on the Web!!!
www.state.ia.us/dhr/caa/WxPage.html

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